

REMARKS

At the time the Office Action was mailed, claims 8 – 11 were pending.

Rejections of Claims Under 35 USC Section 102

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 8 - 11 as being anticipated by Shatto (U.S. Patent 3,165,899) ("Shatto"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent claim 8 recites a method of installing a clamshell device around an element, wherein the clamshell device is selected from vortex-induced vibration reduction devices and drag reduction devices, where the tool is operated to close the clamshell device around the element.

Shatto teaches suction devices 25 to secure a manipulator device 20 to a cylindrical structure 11, so that work engaging arms 26 and 27 may be used. (Shatto, Col. 4, Lines 15-21, and Figure 1). In an alternative embodiment, Shatto teaches a plate 66 which may be anchored to cylindrical structure 11 with openings 68, so that work engaging arms 26 and 27 may be used. (Shatto, Col. 5, Lines 32-60, and Figure 7).

Applicants respectfully submit that Shatto does not teach or suggest the desirability of a method of installing a clamshell device selected from vortex-induced vibration reduction devices and drag reduction devices, by operating the tool to close the clamshell device around the element, as recited in Claim 8.

Dependent claims 9-11 are allowable for at least the same reasons as the allowable independent claim 8 from which they depend.

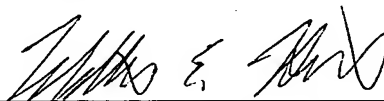
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 8-11.

Conclusion

Applicants have responded to each and every ground for rejection and respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are patentable over the cited art. In the event the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding the above-presented materials, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number below prior to the issuance of any formal action.

Respectfully submitted,

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